Policy Position on Artificial Intelligence

Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the power to uncover and activate meaningful insights to revolutionize the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. At Pfizer, we recognize that AI can be a powerful technology in support of our mission to create breakthroughs that change patients' lives.

We see AI's significant potential to drive innovation by helping in numerous ways, including accelerating our research and development of new medicines and vaccines; in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases; and by optimizing the manufacturing and delivery of important therapies to patients. We recognize that AI is transforming life sciences and has the potential to improve healthcare for patients across the globe.

At a time when conversations and questions around the development and delivery of AI are increasing, Pfizer agrees that it is critical to take stock of both the promise and challenges of using these new tools, especially in advance of legislative and regulatory changes. We are eager to engage with policymakers around the globe on key issues described in this policy position as, together, we look to harness the power of AI for all.

Pfizer's Commitment to Responsible AI Principles

At Pfizer, we have the obligation to use AI ethically, responsibly, and purposefully to benefit our patients, customers, colleagues, and society. To that end, Pfizer has developed a set of Responsible AI Principles to provide a clear path for the company to utilize this technology.

- **Principle 1: We strive to design AI systems that empower humans and promote equity.** We create and execute AI tools to empower humans and human decision-making while ensuring these tools do not completely substitute for humans. We strive to develop AI that is fair, inclusive, and avoids bias in its inputs, models, and outputs.
- **Principle 2: We respect individuals' privacy and the need for transparency in the utilization of data and AI.** Transparency and trust are among the most important objectives in the adoption of AI in healthcare. Making systems explainable, where possible, is a key form of transparency that increases trust. Pfizer's policy requires that users are informed, where practicable, of the limitations and risks of the AI systems they are using. Pfizer incorporates privacy into the design of its AI systems. Patient data are tightly controlled, and internal processes are designed to ensure that the privacy, safety, and security of individuals are protected.
- **Principle 3**: **We take ownership of our AI systems.** At Pfizer, we are accountable for ensuring that AI systems meet ethical, legal, regulatory, and sustainability standards. We commit to building AI that is safe, valid, and secure. Finally, we maintain necessary human controls over AI.

Pfizer's Position on AI Policies

Pfizer supports the evaluation of current policy frameworks to confirm they are fit-for-purpose and provide the flexibility needed to accommodate the rapidly evolving landscape of AI development and use across the life sciences and healthcare ecosystems. Where creation of new AI-focused laws, regulations, and guidances are deemed necessary, we support policies that promote responsible innovation while mitigating potential risks associated with the development and deployment of AI systems.

Development and Use of AI
Pfizer encourages policies that support the development and use of AI systems that are designed based on scientific research principles, protect intellectual property, and reflect ethical principles and values. We also encourage policies that foster the design of AI systems that empower humans and promote equity; such systems should be fair, inclusive, and avoid biases. At Pfizer, we ensure that our AI systems include humans as part of the decision-making process and strongly support policies that ensure humans are not removed from decision processes that could impact health outcomes.

Regulation and Governance of AI
Pfizer supports a patient-centric regulatory approach that relies on risk-based guardrails and fosters innovation while ensuring the appropriate data and privacy protections for patients. Importantly, Pfizer encourages alignment of regulatory frameworks in order to ensure that AI advancements within the life sciences continue at pace. Misaligned approaches related to AI oversight within and across governments can lead to an overly complex and potentially burdensome approach for both developers and deployers of AI and could ultimately stifle innovation.

Pfizer supports continual cross-sector and multi-disciplinary dialogue on guidances related to advancements in AI, as well as the need for oversight and governance of the ethical use of AI systems in healthcare. As part of these conversations, Pfizer supports efforts by policymakers to learn about current and potential future uses of AI, specifically in healthcare and the research and development of medicines and vaccines. Policymakers and regulators should continue to engage with life science and healthcare companies to understand where AI uses converge and, importantly, diverge from other industries.

Transparency and Explainability
To foster trust and confidence, Pfizer supports transparency regarding the limitations and risks of AI that could significantly impact individual rights, like people's health and safety. This includes incorporating sufficient human oversight and control into design and implementation. Pfizer encourages the adoption of practices that allow for sharing of sufficient information to enable the intended user to understand how the recommendations are made, including explanations of the model's process and decisions, where feasible. Pfizer encourages clear communications about the intended use and limitations of AI systems, to increase trust and confidence in the potential capabilities of these systems.

Privacy and Informed Consent
Pfizer supports policies that promote the design of AI systems in which privacy and informed consent are fully integrated as appropriate into the process of leveraging data sources for development.

Training and education
AI systems are vulnerable to biases, occurring at the point of data collection, the development of algorithms, and finally in the use of the system. Pfizer supports policies and pathways that promote the use of databases that are representative of the populations served by AI systems. Pfizer supports policies and guidances that aid in the development of tools, training, and educational programs that focus on reducing the potential for biases.

Future Uses of AI in Healthcare
Pfizer encourages research to assess the potential that AI systems may have on the ability to discover, develop, and deliver safe and effective therapeutics to patients, including identification of potential risks to individuals and the healthcare system. Pfizer supports exploration of the benefits to patients of future technological advances in AI systems (e.g., generative AI) that align with our existing responsible AI principles.